

M. Oberthür, recognising that it is largely a matter of opinion, and showing that other views may be held, says that *armoricana*, *bellieri*, and *nivea* are as good species as *ligurica*. It was to assist in getting further material to settle these points that he and Mr. Powell worked during last summer on *armoricana*, and appeal to their friends to study the forms at their disposal, in order finally to clear up these questions.

Coleoptera at Barton Mills.

By H. DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S.

On September 8th I went to Barton Mills for a few days collecting, my principal object being *Cionus longicollis* Bris., a beetle I had not taken before. Pool had kindly told me along which road I should best find the food-plant, *Verbascum thapsus*, but when I got on the ground I found I had forgotten which road he said, and of course took the wrong one! After tramping for a long time I only succeeded in finding a single, nearly dead, Mullein spike, but off this I obtained seven specimens of the *Cionus*. Subsequently, however, I found it in plenty on other Mullein plants all over the district, and no doubt it can always be taken wherever the plant occurs in this locality. After making sure of the *Cionus* I next endeavoured to locate *Brachonyx pineti* Pk., a few specimens of which had previously been taken by Sharp (Dr.) and Fryer in the district. After beating innumerable young Scots Firs, I at length struck on a spot where the beetle occurred fairly freely, and some twenty specimens were bottled. It is very hard to see in the net, as it closely resembles the seeds, and especially the bits of buds beaten with it off the fir trees. Fryer told me that he had taken two or three individuals in March off large old firs, but these no doubt were hibernating specimens. The occurrence of this species so far south, which has only been found in the Highlands otherwise in Britain, is very interesting. I then proceeded to hunt for *Lycoperdina succincta* L., a beetle which was only added to the British list, from this locality, last year by Dr. Nicholson [*Ent. Mo. Mag.*, 52, 253 (1916)], who captured nine specimens out of ripe *Lycoperdon gemmatum*, on October 1st, and six more on October 4th. Many "puff-balls" were examined without result, but one of the beetles was eventually found under some fungi on a fir stump. One *Lycoperdon gemmatum*, which was inhabited by a number of small white beetle larvæ was brought home, and so far I have bred one *L. succincta* from it; the larva feeding up, pupating, and emerging in less than a month.

Pocadius ferrugineus F., was very abundant in Lycoperdons, varying much in colour and size, the largest I took measures 4.5mm. in length, and the smallest 3mm. I have since bred several specimens from the "puff-ball" I brought home; these having taken much longer to emerge than the *Lycoperdina*. [Since the above was written I have bred a ♂ and a ♀ of *Caenocara subglobosa* Muls., a species new to Britain, from this same puff-ball.]

Other beetles found on Mulleins were—*Apion sanguineum* De G., on the large lower leaves, and *Longitarsus tabidus* F., and its ab. *thapsi* F., in plenty. Another species?, which Dr. Sharp had previously taken here in plenty, and thinks may be distinct, was also common. I had separated mine from *tabidus* before I sent them to him, and he tells me

he had also tried to do the same with his. We must wait until he has leisure to dissect some of them and study the matter further.

Licinus depressus Pk., was found at the roots of Mullein.

“Lady Birds” were very abundant on the young firs, especially *Coccinella 7-punctata* L., but though I examined hundreds of them, they only appeared to vary in the size of the body and spots. One specimen only has the 1st spot on each elytron somewhat triangular in shape, instead of being round. It is well known that aberrations are very scarce in this species.

Hippodamia variegata Goez., was almost equally abundant, but they all appeared to belong to the ab. *carpini* Geof., with the exception of one specimen which has the head nearly all white (only the base being narrowly black) with four brown spots on the disc; there are four spots on each elytron, which are small, with the exception of the 4th and 5th, which are larger and joined together by a black band. The usual spot at the scutellum is present. Ganglbauer [*Käfer Mitteleuropa*, 3 ? 1019 (1899)] writes: “The commonest varieties found in the south, in which the spots are larger and in part connected with each other, can be included under *corsica*.” But this will not do; Reiche (Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 1862, 299) described an aberration *corsica*, which was common under stones in Corsica, with more marked puncturation, head more black, thorax with yellow spots smaller and narrower side margins, anterior angles less advanced, posterior angles more obtuse, spots on elytra much larger, the 4th and 5th sometimes running into each other, etc. Now my insect does not agree with this description in any particular, with the exception of the 4th and 5th spots!, it would, therefore, be very inaccurate to call it by Reiche’s name, and I propose the name ab. *ditylotus* n. ab., for it. (I may mention that the forms of this insect present in my collection are—elytra with 6 spots on each, this is the type form; elytra with only 2 spots on each = ab. *quinquemaclata* F.; elytra with 3 spots on each = ab. *constellata* Laich; elytra with 4 spots on each = ab. *carpini* Geof.; all taken at Hythe, September 29th, 1893. None of these abs. appear to have been recorded in Britain before, though no doubt they will be present in many collections. There are several other abs. mentioned in the European Catalogue which may well occur in Britain.)

Evening sweeping produced *Thalycera sericea* Stm., and a fine large ♀ of what Janson tells me is *Anisotoma pallens* Stm. This very rare species has only once been taken in Britain before, when three specimens were swept by Walker on the sandhills at Deal, in 1873.

Many other common beetles were observed, but are hardly worth recording here.

Some Account of Bridport and its Neighbourhood from the point of view of the Lepidopterist, particularly having regard to the Geographical Distribution of the Species.

By W. PARKINSON CURTIS, F.E.S.

Very little is known about the district. My available sources of information were:—

(i.) My own and my wife’s observations.

(ii.) Mr. A. E. Webber’s memory and an evening going through his collection.